



Department Updates

December 2021

Finance

Jodi Busch, Finance Director

The Finance Department had a very busy fall season focusing on the 2022 budget. At the November 1st County Board meeting, a County Budget was set at \$73,009,987 with a levy of \$22,425,616. Once the budget was approved, it was full speed ahead as the County Apportionment calculations were finalized and sent out to the municipalities and Department of Revenue. Soon after, the Levy Limit Worksheet was completed and also sent to the DOR. Next came the setup of the 2022 Departmental Budgets in our financial software system. As you can imagine, it takes a great deal of time throughout the budget process to compile, calculate, and check, to insure that everything ties out to what was approved. Now with just a few more tasks to complete, we will be ready for 2022.

In addition to preparing and looking ahead to the New Year, we are also looking back over 2021 to begin our year-end processes. CliftonLarsonAllen will be focusing on Barron County for a few days the week of December 6th for their annual preliminary audit. This is a good time for them to handle the more tedious functions of the audit so when spring rolls around, they can move more quickly through their other tasks.

In the midst of Budget and Audit, we have a few other projects going on. The Highway Facility is well underway and to date we have spent just under \$9 million. We continue to wait on the final guidance of the American Rescue Plan Act, but thus far have spent just under \$33,000 of the \$8.8 million that Barron County was awarded. No doubt that both projects will be keeping us busy in 2022 managing payments and monitoring and reporting the activity to the various committees.

As we move into 2022, we will start reconciling 2021 accounts and prepare the necessary work papers. W-2's, 1095's, and 1099's will be calculated and sent out in January, and we will be assisting departments with their year-end deposits, payments, and any necessary adjusting entries through February. Late February and March will consist of closing the books County-wide, and in April we will be putting everything together for the Auditors to start their fieldwork. The whole process of closing the year and preparing for the audit takes several months to complete. The Finance Team will be working together through the winter to insure deadlines are met and all reconciliations are completed accurately.

On behalf of the Barron County Finance Department, we wish you a blessed Christmas Season and Happy New Year!

Forestry

John Cisek
Forest Administrator

Harvesting this winter so far has been slow, due to soft ground conditions and weak markets for pulpwood.

The Pine-Time sale in the Town of Maple Plain has been completed. Expected revenue from the sale is \$ 36,462.48.

The Black & White sale, in the Town of Bear Lk. Was started this fall, the sale is a regeneration harvest in aspen and swamp hardwoods. Expected revenue is \$ 16,873.00. Completion is expected later this winter.

The revised 15 yr. plan has been uploaded to the forestry webpage. Since the revision did not involve any policy changes, the 30-day review period is waived. The plan will be reviewed by the Property Committee and if approved sent on the full County Board for approval.

Six Power Driven Mobility Device Permits were issued during the gun deer season. Six Firewood Permits were issued and three Christmas tree permits since the last update.

The Historical Museum is planning to clear acreage in preparation for a parking lot. The Timber Sale Advertisement has been prepared and waiting for Property Committee review.

Spirit of Christmas Program

Barron County employees participated in the Spirit of Christmas program again this year. Employees have been supporting the Spirit of Christmas since 2004 and look forward to purchasing gifts for local children each year. This year employees adopted 8 children through the program and provided gifts and groceries to help make the holiday season brighter. Thank you to everyone who participated this year!

